[Mr. K. P Nilakanta Pillai.]

(*a*) the total number of attacks and deaths up to date (20-8-1104);

(*b*) the nature of the preventive and curative work carried out by the Trivandrum Municipal Council and the Sanitary Department;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a smallpox patient jumped into the Chettikulam tank and perished;

(*d*) if the answer to part (*c*) is in the affirmative, whether anything has been done either by the Trivandrum Municipal Council or by the Sanitary Department to disinfect the tank; and

(*e*) whether they are aware that the public were allowed the free use of the tank even after this incident?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There were 107 attacks and 13 deaths from smallpox in the town from the beginning of the year to the 20th Minam 1104, of which 50 attacks and 7 deaths were due to the present outbreak.

(*b*) As the preventive work in municipal towns rests solely with the Municipalities, the Sanitary Department did not do anything in the matter. The disease was confined to A and E wards of the Petta Division. All the houses in these wards were visited one after another and a list of unprotected children prepared. All persons in this list were vaccinated except those who were physically unfit for vaccination. Three out of the four vaccinators in the town were posted to this Division to do house-to-house vaccination. The people in this locality were individually advised to get revaccinated. Copies of a Malayalam pamphlet on smallpox were freely distributed in the locality. All cases were visited by the Health Officer and treatment given to those willing to avail of the same. Details regarding the latest treatment for smallpox were published in all the important newspapers. Disinfection of the house and infected materials was thoroughly carried out in the infected area.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) A notice board was immediately put up at the side of the tank prohibiting people from using the tank. A peon was also posted at the place for the same purpose. Arrangements were made immediately for completely baling out the tank and for working out certain improvements to the tank which were sanctioned by the Municipal Council. The work has now been completed.

(*e*) As stated already, the public were prohibited the use of the tank after the incident referred to.

Professorship in Sanskrit in H. H. The Maha Raja's College.

183. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) for how many years Sanskrit was taught in His Highness the Maha Raja's College by a scholar of the rank of a Professor;

(*b*) why the place was abolished and a Lecturer made to do the work of teaching;

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(*c*) whether Sanskrit is placed in a subordinate position in the scheme of studies by the Travancore Government or the Madras University; and

(*d*) if the answer to part (*c*) is in the negative, why the Professorship in Sanskrit was discontinued on the death of Professor A. R. Raja Raja Varma Koiltampuran?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 8 years.

(*b*) Because a person competent in all respects to hold the Professorship in Sanskrit and Dravidian Languages as the late Professor A. R. Raja Raja Varma was not then available.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The member is referred to the answer to part (*b*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it is on account of the fact that a competent man is not available that a Professor is not appointed now?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no one competent for holding the professorship of both the Sanskrit and Dravidian languages.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): There is no one available in the State to hold the professorship of both the subjects?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Have the Government felt the necessity for appointing a professor of Dravidan languages?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government understand that the work is being done well under the present arrangement.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Does he mean to say therefore the Government have not felt the necessity?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not impressed as to the necessity.

Introduction of Commercial subjects as optional subjects in English Schools.

184. **MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTOMMAN** (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether, as stated in answer to a supplementary question to question No. 58 *re* introduction of Shorthand and Typewriting as optional subjects in English Schools, asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 24th November 1926 (pages 201 to 203 of Vol. X of the Council Proceedings), they have called for a list of the students willing to take up commercial subjects as their optional subjects from the various English Schools in the State;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they will lay on the table a list showing the number of such students and the schools in which they intended to take this course; and

(*c*) whether from the list thus obtained, they have considered the condition of any school as fit for making this new experiment?

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